

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

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IN RE PORK ANTITRUST  
LITIGATION

Case No. 18-cv-1776 (JRT/JFD)

This Document Relates To:

COMMERCIAL AND  
INSTITUTIONAL INDIRECT  
PURCHASER PLAINTIFF ACTION

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**DECLARATION OF SHAWN M. RAITER IN SUPPORT OF  
COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL INDIRECT PURCHASER  
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES,  
REIMBURSEMENT OF LITIGATION EXPENSES, SET ASIDE  
FOR FUTURE LITIGATION EXPENSES, AND CLASS  
REPRESENTATIVE SERVICE AWARDS**

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I, Shawn M. Raiter, declare as follows:

1. I am a partner at Larson • King, LLP in St. Paul, Minnesota, have practiced law since 1993, and have been appointed lead MDL counsel or class counsel in numerous litigations. I submit this declaration in support of the Commercial and Institutional Indirect Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees, Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, Set Aside for Future Expenses, and Class Representative Service Awards.

2. I am one of the Co-Lead Class Counsel appointed by the Court to represent the certified class of commercial and institutional indirect purchaser plaintiffs ("CIIPPs") in this litigation.

3. The law firms representing the CIIPPs have worked on this litigation on a contingent basis since 2018. My law firm, and the law firms representing the CIIPPs under the direction of Co-Lead Counsel for the CIIPPs, have done so without any guarantee of being paid for their time or being reimbursed for the considerable expenses they devoted to pursuing this case and the settlements currently before the Court.

4. Antitrust class actions are challenging, and this is a decidedly complex litigation. There are 11 CIIPP class representatives who are pursuing money damage claims in 27 states and the District of Columbia. The CIIPP Representative Plaintiffs are: Sandee's Bakery; Francis T. Enterprises d/b/a Erbert & Gerbert's; Joe Lopez, d/b/a Joe's Steak and Leaf; Longhorn's Steakhouse; The Grady Corporation; Mcmjoynt LLC d/b/a The Breakfast Joynt; Edley's Restaurant Group, LLC; Basil Mt. Pleasant, LLC; Basil Charlotte, Inc.; Farah's Courtyard Deli, Inc.; and Tri-Ten LLC.

5. The Defendants are large national and international companies with the resources to hire some of the best defense lawyers in the country. The alleged conspiratorial conduct spans more than a decade and involves many companies and witnesses.

6. Since 2018, some of the CIIPPs' attorneys have spent much of their professional time on this litigation. It has been and will continue to be a substantial undertaking. To-date, our activities have included:

- Research and investigation of the pork industry and the sale of pork products through commercial and foodservice distribution channels;
- Collecting information from a variety of sources, including industry sources and evidence produced by Defendants and third parties;

- Extensive research on the various aspects of the antitrust and other laws of dozens of states and the District of Columbia, and drafting and editing the initial and amended complaints;
- Analyzing and preparing liability and damages claims against all Defendants;
- Collecting and analyzing information and discovery including voluminous discovery produced by the Defendants and third parties, such as food service distributors;
- Consultation with economic and other liability and damages experts;
- Drafting and negotiating key case-management documents, protocols, and stipulations;
- Review, in conjunction with the other plaintiff groups, hundreds of thousands of pages of documents produced by the Defendants and third parties;
- Drafting, preparing for, and arguing oppositions to motions to dismiss;
- Responding to discovery and other information sought by the Defendants from the CIIPPs;
- Negotiating discovery issues with defense counsel including numerous meet-and-confer sessions, each of which required substantial preparation;
- Preparing correspondence with respect to timing, stipulations, and case planning issues;
- Corresponding and attending calls with CIIPP co-counsel regarding client discovery and trial preparation issues;
- Obtaining and analyzing documents and data from class representatives;
- Locating, review, redaction, and production of documents from class representatives;
- Exchanging information and coordinating with end-payor, direct purchaser, and individual action counsel regarding various issues;
- Attending calls and meetings to help formulate subpoenas and discovery from third parties;
- Attending status conferences with the Court;

- Performing all the tasks necessary to reach and effectuate prior settlements, including formulating demands, negotiating, mediation, in-person meetings, exchange of drafts, preparing escrow agreements, drafting the settlement agreement, drafting preliminary and final approval motions, and drafting class notices, claim forms, and other settlement-related documents and coordinating with the claims administrator;
- Coordinating with and reviewing the work product produced by retained experts in connection with the class certification motion;
- Preparing for and taking and defending depositions;
- Drafting the class certification motion for CIPPs;
- Preparing for and briefing *Daubert* motions;
- Preparing for trial;
- Performing all the tasks necessary to reach the settlements with Defendants Hormel Foods Corporation and Hormel Foods, LLC, and Seaboard Foods LLC, including formulating demands, negotiating, mediation, in-person meetings, exchange of drafts, preparing escrow agreements;
- Drafting settlement agreements, preliminary approval motions, and class notices; and
- Drafting notices, claim forms, and other settlement-related documents and consult with the claims administrator.

7. Defendants have asked the class representative CIPPs to produce documents and electronic data relating to numerous aspects of their businesses. They have asked for purchase and transactional data, emails, organizational information, and numerous other topics. Defendants have sought documents and data located on computers, databases, and other storage devices. Counsel for the CIPPs have had to negotiate these demands with Defendants. Trial preparation continues in this case for claims against the non-settling Defendants.

8. The Representative Plaintiffs have devoted time and attention to this litigation and have repeatedly conferred with counsel for the CIPPs, assisted counsel in numerous ways, and opened their business operations and records up for review and scrutiny by Defendants. Representative Plaintiffs have already been deposed. The Representative Plaintiffs understand that they may need to provide trial testimony and are committed to representing both their own interests and the interests of similarly situated businesses and individuals.

9. The settlement with Hormel Foods Corporation and Hormel Foods, LLC (“Hormel Foods”) (the “Hormel Settlement”) provides \$2,429,000.00 for the benefit of eligible CIPPs. This is an all-cash settlement with no reversion to Hormel Foods or any third parties. The settlement includes terms requiring Hormel Foods to provide certain assistance to the CIPPs, which counsel for the CIPPs believe will provide valuable assistance in their prosecution of claims against the non-settling Defendants.

10. The settlement with Seaboard Foods LLC (“Seaboard”) (the “Seaboard Settlement”) provides \$4,960,000.00 for the benefit of eligible CIPPs. This is an all-cash settlement with no reversion to Seaboard or any third parties. The settlement includes terms requiring Seaboard to provide certain assistance to the CIPPs, which counsel for the CIPPs believe will provide valuable assistance in their prosecution of claims against the non-settling Defendants.

11. These settlements were reached after years of litigation and were negotiated by experienced counsel. The settlements were reached through adversarial, arms-length negotiations. Counsel for the CIPPs had transactional data, documents produced in

discovery, deposition testimony, assistance from experts, and a strong understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the claims and defenses. CIIPPs, Hormel Foods, and Seaboard exchanged information and negotiated to reach the settlements.

12. The Hormel and Seaboard Settlements were negotiated independently of one another. In both settlements, after multiple rounds of negotiation, the parties reached agreements on the core terms of the settlements but then continued to negotiate other components. They exchanged proposals and drafts of the settlement agreements before they reached agreement on all terms.

13. The class notices published for these settlements advised class members that counsel would seek: (a) up to one-third of the settlements (after deduction of past expenses and service awards) as attorneys' fees, (b) reimbursement of up to \$500,000.00 per settlement fund for past expenses, (c) to have up to eight percent of each settlement be set aside for future litigation expenses, and (d) class representative service awards of \$2,500.00 from each settlement for the Representative Plaintiffs.

14. As of the date of this declaration, no class member has objected to the settlement or opted out.

15. The Court is familiar with the complexity of this litigation and of antitrust litigation in general. Counsel for the CIIPPs have dedicated thousands of attorney and paralegal hours to this case. Co-Lead Counsel for the CIIPPs coordinated the efforts of counsel representing the CIIPPs to maximize efficiency, minimize duplication of effort, and minimize unnecessary or duplicative billing. Co-Lead Counsel for the CIIPPs also monitored the work to avoid unauthorized or unnecessary work.

16. Co-Lead Counsel for the CIIPPs directed the firms who would perform common benefit work for the CIIPPs to keep detailed time and expense records and provided counsel with instructions about what time would be considered for reimbursement and how time and expense requests must be recorded. Co-Lead Counsel for the CIIPPs monitored firms working for the CIIPPs to ensure efficiency and to avoid unauthorized and unnecessary work.

17. Co-Lead Counsel for the CIIPPs and the firms working under their direction have devoted substantial time on this litigation, which they could have spent working on other matters. They have invested this time for six years and have or will be paid for their work only if they reach settlements or achieve judgments.

18. Counsel for the CIIPPs have also invested their own money to pay for unreimbursed litigation expenses to achieve the settlements before the Court. These expenses included court fees, service of process fees, expert fees, costs of gathering and producing documents and data, maintaining a database for the documents produced in discovery, computerized legal and factual research, mediation costs, travel expenses, photocopying, long distance telephone and facsimile charges, postage and delivery expenses, and filing fees. These costs included the fees charged by experts for data gathering and production, economic analysis, production of expert reports, and the cost of document review and hosting for the ever-increasing volume of documents and data produced in the litigation. These expenses were paid by CIIPPs' counsel, with no guarantee they would ultimately be recovered.

19. Co-Lead Counsel for the CIPPs has issued assessments to the firms working for the CIPPs to establish a fund that is used to pay certain large expenses. My law firm has maintained that fund and has recorded and documented the litigation expenses paid out of that fund. In relation to the prior settlements with JBS and Smithfield, the Court awarded reimbursement of past litigation expenses and allowed money to be set aside for future litigation expenses. The future litigation funds have been used to pay various litigation expenses, of which expert fees and data gathering, preparation, production, and hosting made up the majority.

20. Because the future litigation fund has been used, counsel for the CIPPs currently have unpaid vendor invoices that total **\$607,409.23**. Counsel for the CIPPs have also advanced and paid **\$53,708.81** for other unreimbursed litigation costs, as reflected in the declarations set forth with this motion. These are reasonable litigation costs that were incurred in this case for the benefit of the settlement class members.

21. Current invoices from the notice and claim administrator for the development, implementation, and delivery of the notice plans for the instant settlements, which Hormel Foods and Seaboard have agreed could be paid from the settlement funds and for which the Court approved reimbursement from the settlement funds, are not included in the above totals. *See* Hormel Settlement Agreement, ¶6; Seaboard Settlement Agreement, ¶6; Dkt. Nos. 2619, 2620. Co-Lead Counsel for the CIPPs therefore request an award of **\$661,118.04** for past, unreimbursed expenses (and to be paid on a pro rata basis from the Hormel and Seaboard settlements).



22. The size and complexity of this litigation requires the expenditure of significant expenses for scanning and preparation of documents for database entry, document review and database hosting of those documents, and extensive economic expert analysis and report preparation. As the case progressed to class certification and *Daubert* motions, the expert and other associated expenses have increased dramatically. Experts in antitrust cases typically create economic and damage models that describe the mechanisms and impact of the anti-competitive behavior at issue. In this litigation, counsel for the CIIPPs incurred several million dollars of expert costs in relation to data analysis and modeling used for CIIPPs' motion for class certification and *Daubert* motions.

23. In addition, ongoing expenses related to the Plaintiffs' processing and hosting of hundreds of thousands of pages of documents are a significant expense, for which the CIIPPs' share alone will be substantial. CIIPPs' counsel also maintains their own database of documents gathered and produced in the case. And, if the settlements are granted final approval, the cost to administer claims from class members is expected to total hundreds of thousands of dollars.

24. From the Hormel Settlement, Co-Lead Counsel for the CIIPPs request that the Court authorize them to set aside eight percent of the Hormel Settlement proceeds **(\$194,320.00)** to be used for future litigation expenses in pursuit of the claims against the non-settling Defendants. Having this money available to help adequately fund the litigation against the non-settling Defendants will maximize the likelihood of success for the CIIPPs.

25. From the Seaboard Settlement, Co-Lead Counsel for the CIIPPs request that the Court authorize them to set aside eight percent of the Seaboard Settlement proceeds

**(\$396,800.00)** to be used for future litigation expenses in pursuit of the claims against the non-settling Defendants. Having this money available to help adequately fund the litigation against the non-settling Defendants will maximize the likelihood of success for the CIIPPs.

26. The schedule attached to this declaration as Exhibit A, and incorporated herein, is a summary of the amount of time spent by my firm's partners, attorneys, and professional support staff who were involved in this litigation through the end of October 2024. The lodestar calculation is based on my firm's current billing rates for antitrust class action litigation. Exhibit A was prepared from records regularly prepared and maintained by my firm. The hourly rates for my firm's partners, attorneys, and professional support staff included in Exhibit A are the customary hourly rates charged for their services in similar complex litigation. In addition, my firm has submitted fee petitions in other cases that have reported hourly rates at amounts comparable to those sought here, and courts have approved awards of attorneys' fees in such cases.

27. The total number of hours reasonably expended on this litigation by my firm from inception through October 2024 is 4,891. The total lodestar for my firm at current rates is **\$3,084,055.00**. Expense items are billed separately and are not duplicated in my firm's lodestar.

28. The expenses my firm incurred and paid in litigating this case are reflected in the records of my firm. These records are prepared from expense vouchers, receipts, check records, and other source materials and accurately reflect the expenses incurred.

29. Since the Court's order in October 2022 allowing reimbursement of expenses incurred by the CIIPPs, my firm has incurred and paid **\$17,805.03** in expenses, all of which

were reasonable and necessary for the prosecution of this litigation. A summary of those expenses by category is attached as Exhibit B. Assessments my firm paid to a litigation expense fund for this case are not included in Exhibit B and are addressed separately in this declaration.

30. The time records submitted to Co-Lead Counsel for the CIPPs by Larson • King, LLP; Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, LLP; Zimmerman Reed LLP; Tostrud Law Group, PC; Barrett Law Group; and Bozeman Law Firm, PA demonstrate that counsel for the CIPPs have worked for six years and devoted 22,346 attorney hours and 4,574 hours for legal assistants to this litigation. Applying the rates customarily charged by those attorneys and legal professionals to the hours expended yields a lodestar of **\$18,575,551.00** (through October 31, 2024). In addition to the firms set forth in this paragraph, other attorneys and firms provided common benefit work to help advance the CIPPs claims in this litigation.

31. The table below provides an aggregated summary of the lodestar of counsel for the CIPPs through October 31, 2024:

<b>Lodestar Using Customary CIPPs Rates</b>		
<b>Category of Timekeeper</b>	<b>Number of Hours</b>	<b>Lodestar</b>
Partner	16,118.50	\$14,204,472.00
Associate	6,228.00	\$3,183,575.00
Paralegal	4,113.20	\$1,059,561.50
Law Clerk	460.90	\$127,942.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,920.60</b>	<b>\$18,575,551.00</b>

32. Co-Lead Counsel for the CIPPs respectfully request a fee award equal to one-third of the Hormel Settlement, after deducting the past expenses and the cost of class service awards. That calculation is: **\$2,429,000.00 - \$217,330.59 (costs) - \$27,500.00 (service awards) = \$2,184,169.41 / 3 = \$728,056.47.**

33. Co-Lead Counsel for the CIPPs also respectfully request a fee award equal to one-third of the Seaboard Settlement, after deducting the past expenses and the cost of service awards. That calculation is: **\$4,960,000.00 - \$443,787.45 (costs) - \$27,500.00 (service awards) = \$4,488,712.55 / 3 = \$1,496,237.52.**

34. Counsel for the CIPPs request a fee award totaling \$2,224,293.99 for these two settlements. When added to the \$3,877,376.47 fee award the Court issued for the CIIPP settlement with JBS and the \$13,270,913.12 fee award the Court issued for the CIIPP settlement with Smithfield, the fee award respectfully sought in this motion represents a **slightly negative** multiplier of .935 of the current lodestar (\$17,372,583.60 (total fees) / \$18,575,551.00 (lodestar)), using counsels' customary rates. That multiplier will decline as counsel for the CIPPs continue to work to conclude this settlement and process claims.

35. Co-Lead Counsel for the CIPPs believe an award of \$2,500.00 from each of the settlements to each of the following businesses is warranted for their willingness to serve as class representatives and to compensate them for their service in this case, without which these settlements with Hormel Foods and Seaboard would not have been possible: Sandee's Bakery; Francis T. Enterprises d/b/a Erbert & Gerbert's; Joe Lopez, d/b/a Joe's Steak and Leaf; Longhorn's Steakhouse; The Grady Corporation; Mcmjoynt LLC d/b/a The Breakfast Joynt; Edley's Restaurant Group, LLC; Basil Mt. Pleasant, LLC; Basil Charlotte, Inc.; Farah's Courtyard Deli, Inc.; and Tri-Ten LLC.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this the 22nd day of November, 2024, in St. Paul, Minnesota.

/s/ Shawn M. Raiter

Shawn M. Raiter

**In Re Pork Antitrust Litigation  
Commercial and Institutional Indirect Purchaser Plaintiff Action  
Case No. 18-cv-1776 (JRT/HB)**

**EXHIBIT A  
LODESTAR SUMMARY**

Firm: **Larson King LLP**  
Reporting Period: **Inception – October 31, 2024**

<b>Professional</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Total Hours To Date</b>	<b>Total Lodestar To Date</b>
Shawn Raiter	P	\$1,000.00	2,195.0	\$2,195,000.00
Kevin McCarthy	P	\$750.00	31.0	\$23,250.00
Jason Johnson	A	\$495.00	291.1	\$144,094.50
Patrick O'Neill, III	A	\$525.00	8.7	\$4,306.50
Ryan Deschene	A	\$525.00	121.0	\$63,525.00
Samuel Schultz	A	\$525.00	1.7	\$892.50
Matt Bolt	A	\$525.00	32.5	\$17,062.50
Gretchen Touchette	PL	\$290.00	1425.6	\$413,424.00
Mark Burns	PL	\$275.00	335.6	\$92,290.00
Courtney Burks	PL	\$290.00	449.0	\$130,210.00
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>4,891</b>	<b>\$3,084,055.00</b>

Status:  
Partner (P)  
Associate (A)  
Paralegal (PL)  
Of Counsel (OC)  
Law Clerk (LC)  
Legal Assistant (LA)

**In Re Pork Antitrust Litigation  
Commercial and Institutional Indirect Purchaser Plaintiff Action  
Case No. 18-cv-1776 (JRT/HB)**

**EXHIBIT B  
EXPENSE / DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY**

Firm: **Larson King LLP**  
Reporting Period: **August 31, 2022 – October 31, 2024**

<b>EXPENSE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Federal Express, Local Courier, etc.	\$419.25
Postage Charges	\$6.85
Facsimile Charges	\$0.00
Long Distance	\$2.98
In-House Photocopying	\$10.70
Outside Photocopying	\$0.00
Travel (Transportation, lodging, meals, etc.)	\$677.59
Court fees (filing, etc.)	\$53.13
Professional Fees (expert/investigators, etc.)	\$0.00
Witness/Service Fees	\$0.00
Court Reporter/Transcripts	\$0.00
Computer Research	\$284.53
Miscellaneous (Mediator fees)	\$16,350.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,805.03</b>